

BALA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1971

To the Chairman and Members of the Bala Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Health Report for the year ended 31st December 1971.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 1,620, which is 20 more than in the previous year.

The number of live births was 25, one more than in the previous year. There was one stillbirth, but no infant death.

Forty-one persons from the Urban area died during the year (29 in 1970). Twenty-five of the forty-one deaths were from heart disease and 'strokes', which are the commonest causes of death in the county as a whole.

Eight persons died from cancer (6 in 1970).

No new case of tuberculosis was notified and there was no death from the disease.

The report is generally a satisfactory one.

I wish to thank the Public Health Inspector, the Clerk and all the other Council Officials for their help during the year.

Finally I wish to thank all the members of the Council for their interest and support.

I remain,

Your obedient servant

H. FRANCIS

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

# GENERAL STATISTICS

## SECTION A

Area of Bala District -  
 Rateable Value -  
 Population (Registrar General's figures) - 1,620  
 Sum represented by a Penny Rate  
 Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Books) at end of year -

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Comparability Factors

Births .. .. . 1.23  
 Deaths .. .. . .76

## BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>										<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	13	25
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	12	23
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 15.4

1970 figures - 15.0

Illegitimate Live Births as percentage of all live births - 8.0

<u>Still Births</u>										<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 0.62

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births - 38.0

<u>TOTAL BIRTHS (Live and Still)</u>										<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live										12	13	25
Still	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1

## DEATHS

<u>Death of Infants under one year</u>										<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births										-	-	-
1970 figures										-	-	-

Deaths of Legitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births) - - -

Deaths of Illegitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births) - - -

<u>Death of Infants under 4 weeks</u>										<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-

<u>Death of Infants under 1 week of age</u>										<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate Nil

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate Nil

Perinatal Mortality Rate - 38

MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion) - Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Rate per 1,000

Live Still Births - Nil

1970 figures - Nil

DEATHS

										<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	17	41
Rate per 1,000 population	-	25.3										
1970 figures	-	18.1										

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Total number	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	8
Rate per 1,000 population	-	4.95										
1970 figures	-	3.75										

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Total number	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil		
Rate per 1,000 population	-	Nil										
1970 figures	-	Nil										

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority

One Medical Officer of Health.

One Public Health Inspector.

(2) Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examination of water and examination of milk at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

(3) Ambulance Facilities

There are three full time drivers and two ambulances stationed at the Hafan, Bala.

(4) Infant Welfare Clinics

This clinic is held every second and fourth Thursday at the Hafan Clinic, Bala.

(5) Ante Natal Clinics

This clinic is held every second Wednesday in the month at the Plasyndre, Bala.

(6) Orthopaedic Clinic

Held at Plasyndre, Bala on the fourth Thursday in each month.

(7) Tuberculosis Clinic

This clinic is held at Plasyndre, Bala.

(8) Immunisation

Carried out at Infant Welfare Centre, Hafan, Bala, by the General Practitioners and by the General Practitioners at their surgeries.

(9) Hospitals

There is no hospital in the Urban Area.

(10) Infectious Diseases

Total number of Infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year:- 0

TUBERCULOSISNEW CASES

Pulmonary		<u>TOTAL</u>	Nil
	Males 0	Females 0	

Non-Pulmonary		<u>TOTAL</u>	Nil
	Males 0	Females 0	



TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Pulmonary	<u>TOTAL</u>	Nil
Males	Females	
Non-Pulmonary	<u>TOTAL</u>	Nil
Males	Females	

# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1971 in age groups

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
2								
3								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
35								
45								
55								
65								
75								
TOTAL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



# CAUSES OF DEATH 1971

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	.....	.....
Other Tuberculosis, Incl. Late Effects.....	.....	.....
Other Tuberculosis.....	.....	.....
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases.....	.....	.....
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.....	.....	.....
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.....	.....	.....
" " Oesophagus.....	.....	.....
" " Stomach.....	2	1
" " Intestine.....	.....	2
" " Lung, Bronchus.....	1	.....
" " Breast.....	.....	1
" " Uterus.....	.....	.....
" " Prostate.....	.....	.....
Leukaemia.....	.....	.....
Other Malignant Neoplasm, etc.....	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus.....	.....	.....
Avitaminoses, etc.....	.....	.....
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases.....	1	.....
Anaemias.....	.....	.....
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.....	.....	.....
Mental Disorders.....	.....	.....
Multiple Sclerosis.....	.....	.....
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease.....	.....	.....
Hypertensive Disease.....	.....	.....
Ischaemic Heart Disease.....	7	.....
Other Forms of Heart Disease.....	5	2
Cerebrovascular Disease.....	1	2
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.....	2	.....
Influenza.....	.....	1
Pneumonia.....	2	.....
Bronchitis and Emphysema.....	1	.....
Other Disease of Respiratory System.....	.....	1
Peptic Ulcer.....	.....	.....
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia.....	.....	.....
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	.....	.....
Other Diseases of Digestive System.....	.....	.....
Nephritis and Nephrosis.....	.....	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate.....	.....	.....
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System.....	.....	.....
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue.....	.....	.....
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System.....	.....	.....
Congenital Anomalies.....	.....	.....
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.....	.....	.....
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality.....	.....	.....
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions.....	.....	.....
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	1	.....
All Other Accidents.....	.....	.....
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries.....	.....	.....
All Other External Causes.....	.....	.....
Total	24	17

## FOOD HYGIENE

Food premises were visited and advice given.

## No. of Prosecutions

Nil

1. HOUSING(a) Council Building

No new Council dwellings were completed during the year, but work commenced upon the erection of 46 dwellings at Blaenddol, comprising 32 3 bedroom houses, 6 2 bedroom bungalows and 8 2 bedroom flats; being the fourth stage of development of this estate.

The total number of Council-owned houses, therefore, remained at 216 and the following table shows the numbers and types in the various estates

SITE	NUMBER OF DWELLINGS				TOTAL
	4B'R's	3B'R's	2B'R's	1B'R's	
MAESYGERDDI		10			10
MAESYBRONYDD	12	18			30
BRO ERYL	12	52			64
HAFAN	4	42			46
FFORDDYGERDDI		6	12 (Bungalows)		18
GREEN		2			2
BLAENDDOL		32	12 (Flats)		44
LIBRARY HOUSE			1		1
NEUADD BUDDUG FLAT			1		1
TOTAL	28	162	26		216

(b) Private Building

Seven new private dwelling houses were built during 1971 and at the end of the year a further seven were under construction.

The following table shows the number of Private and Council dwellings completed during the period 1960-1971.

YEAR	COUNCIL HOUSES COMPLETED	PRIVATELY BUILT HOUSES COMPLETED
1960	NIL	NIL
1961	NIL	NIL
1962	NIL	NIL
1963	18	NIL
1964	NIL	4
1965	NIL	NIL
1966	18	4
1967	14	NIL
1968	NIL	1
1969	NIL	2
1970	12	8
1971	NIL	7



(c) Improvement Grants

1. Standard

	OWNER/OCCUPIERS		TENANTED	
	5 POINTS	3 POINTS	5 POINTS	3 POINT
No. of Applications received	2	-	-	-
No. of Applications approved	2	-	-	-
No. of Applications refused	-	-	-	-
No. of dwellings improved	2	-	-	-
Amount paid in grants	£393.00			

Since 1961 when the Council first approved an application for a Standard Grant, up to the end of 1971, 28 applications for such grants have been approved and a total amount of £2,957.00 have been paid in grants.

2. Discretionary

There were 8 applications for Discretionary Grants during 1971 and the total amount of grant paid was £3,243.00

(d) Improvements to Council Houses

In December 1971, following consideration of reports upon deficiencies existing at the Maesybronydd and Maesygerddi Council houses (40 No.) the Council declared the estates to be 'General Improvement Areas' with the view of carrying out environmental improvements, also improved and additional facilities and improved layouts to the houses themselves. The Council decided also to install central heating in the 12 aged persons bungalows at Fforddygerddi.

(e) Rent Act 1957 - Certificates of Disrepair

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

(f) Repair, Housing & Public Health Acts

Defects of disrepair were remedied in 8 houses, by the owners, following informal action.

Four private houses were closed following undertakings by the owners not to relet the properties and two closing orders were revoked following the repair and improvement of the houses.

(g) Changes in the Stock of Dwellings

During 1971 there was a loss of 3 dwellings resulting from conversions which was offset by a gain of 3 dwelling units also as a result of conversions carried on

2. RODENT CONTROL

1. Properties Other than Sewers

	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
(a) No. of properties in district	785	3
(b) Total No. of properties inspected following notification	14	1
No. infested by rats	6	1
No. infested by mice	8	-
(c) Total No. of Properties inspected for reasons other than notification	2	-
No. infested by rats	2	-
No. infested by mice	-	-



## 2. Surface Water Sewers

During December the town's foul sewers were inspected and bait laid at various manholes in order to find out the degree, if any, of infestation with rats.

No apparent "takes" were evident thus suggesting that the lengths tested were free of any infestation.

## 3. Poison Used

The poison generally used is Warfarin. This is one of a number of poisons known as "anticoagulants" because their main action on animals is to prevent the blood from clotting.

There was no indication found that rodents in this area are developing resistance to this poison.

Complaints of infestation are investigated and treatments are carried out by one of the Council's workmen, and no charge is made for either private or business premises.

## 3. PST CONTROL

### Feral Pigeons

The increase in the number of feral pigeons established in two or three locations in the town caused a nuisance. The Council asked Messrs. Rentokil laboratories Ltd., to visit Bala to assess the problem.

Feeding points were established over a period of two months following which Messrs. Rentokil Laboratories carried out a narcotising treatment, effecting a 60 - 70 per cent clearance.

A cage was then installed above ground level at one of the regular feeding locations for the purpose of trapping the remaining pigeons.

## 4. OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following tables and particulars provide information concerning the administration and enforcement of the Act and Regulations in the Bala Urban District during the year 1971.

TABLE A

### REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspection during the year
Offices	-	9	9
Retail Shops	5	31	31
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	9	9
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	5	50	50

TABLE B

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS)  
TO REGISTERED PREMISES

62

TABLE C

## ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

CLASS OF WORKPLACE	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
Offices	48
Retail Shops	56
Wholesale Departments and Warehouses	1
Catering Establishments open to the public	43
Canteens	-
Fuel Storage Depots	2
TOTAL	150
TOTAL MALES	55
TOTAL FEMALES	95

## ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions found		Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	3	13	Sitting facilities	-
5	Overcrowding	-	14	Seats (Sedentary workers)	-
6	Temperature	2	15	Eating facilities	-
7	Ventilation	-	16	Floors, passage & stairs	4
8	Lighting	2	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	-
9	Sanitary Conveniences	6	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
10	Washing facilities	3	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
11	Supply of drinking water	-	23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
12	Clothing accommodation	2	24	First Aid	6
				Other matters	7
				TOTAL	29

## ACCIDENTS:

No accident was reported in the year under review.

## 5. FOOD

## (a) Meat Inspection

Carcases Inspected and Condemed	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	130	6	4	1,833	256
Number <u>NOT</u> inspected	NONE				



Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
-----------------------------	------	--------	-----------------------	------

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	-	8	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	21	8	-	121	8

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Cysticerci

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The principal cause of condemnation of organs continues to be Fascioliasis, being infestation of cattle and sheep livers with the liver fluke, together with other parasitic conditions. The reasons for rejection of the eight sheep and lamb carcasses were various, including injury, bruising and emaciation.

The three cattle carcasses condemned were affected by emaciation.

(b) Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

			Cwts.	Lbs.
1. <u>Meat</u>				
		Cwts. Lbs.		
(a) Slaughterhouses	(i) carcass meat	10 40	40	105
	(ii) offal	30 65		
(b) Wholesale premises	(i) carcass meat	- -		
	(ii) offal	- -		
(c) Retail shops	(i) carcass meat	- -		
	(ii) offal	- -		
2. Cooked meat and meat products			-	-
3. Canned meats			-	2
4. Other canned foods			2	19
5. Fish (fresh)			-	-
6. Fruit and vegetables (fresh)			-	32
7. Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown			2	88
8. Other foods			-	-
			46	22

Unsound food stuffs, mainly canned, and excepting unfit meat, are disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip.

(c) Food Hygiene

Food Hygiene Regulations

Food premises were inspected from time to time and forthwith upon complaint.

List of Food Premises in the District:

Bakehouses	1
School Canteens	2
Cafes	12
Public Houses & Hotels	5
Ice Cream Premises	12

Butchers	3
Retail Shops	13
Slaughterhouses	1
Fried-Fish Shops	4
Dairies	2

Defects and shortcomings in food premises generally included the following matters:-

Absence of first aid materials, defective structure, defective decoration, faulty ventilation, lack of cleanliness, chipped crockery, outdoor clothing kept in food rooms etc

At hotels improvements included the following matters:-

Unsatisfactory condition of beer cellars, drainage of floors, defective decoration, improvement to lighting, ventilation and the screening of sanitary accommodation.

During the year many shops were altered structurally, and advice regarding various matters was given at plan stage in order to avoid possible contravention of Regulations when work was completed. There is a trend for shop fronts to be without air-inlets and the attention of occupiers of food premises and that of the builders is drawn to the need for adequate provision for ventilation.

Although structural requirements in food premises are now largely satisfied and most of the have the required equipment there is still a wide variety of shortcomings in practise.

It is essential that food-handlers recognise that everything connected with food must be scrupulously clean, and even in premises where equipment and fittings are of the most modern standard food hygiene will break down if there is a lapse upon the part of the personnel employed.

#### (d) Foreign Matter in Food

During 1971 four complaints were received from consumers of food that they had bought; three concerning meat pies affected by mould, and the other of the presence of maggots in a meat pie.

Following reports to the Council warning letters were sent to the producers of these items.

The number of complaints of foreign matter in food increases each year, and it must also be remembered that not every incident is reported to the Local Authority.

#### (e) Mobile Food Shops

During the year notices were served concerning contraventions of The Food Hygiene (Markets Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) regulations in respect of an ice-cream stall and a bread and confectionery van.

### 6. FACTORIES ACT 1961

At the end of the year the number of factories on the register was 13, no Notices were served.

### 7. CARAVAN SITES

No new licence was granted under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

The only licence site within the Urban area is in respect of land at Loch Cafe, the number of caravans there being restricted to three.

### 8. WATER SUPPLY

#### Bacteriological Quality

Five samples of the town's water supply were submitted for Bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, and were found to be satisfactory.

Complaints of the presence of sediment in the water supply were forwarded to the Water Board.

The supply from Llyn Arenig is now chlorinated continuously.

### 9. REFUSE COLLECTION

During 1971 the paper/polythene sack system introduced in 1968 was gradually extended to additional private houses, also Council dwellings and the three schools.



Further private householders bought sack holders from the Council, the sacks themselves being provided free of charge by the Council.

There is no doubt that this form of refuse storage and collection has been accepted in principle as an improvement to the traditional metal receptacles, welcomed by the refuse collectors and by the people using them, and it is hoped that it will be possible to gradually extend this system so that eventually all properties, both Council owned and privately owned will have their present assorted and often unsuitable forms of refuse containers replaced by the cleaner and easier to handle paper or plastic sacks.

During the year polythene sacks replaced the paper ones previously used, the reason for this was solely one of cost.

When the polythene sacks were first introduced complaints were received of them slipping in their holders, but this difficulty was eventually overcome.

When the sack system was first introduced the most up to date holders were bought, being freestanding fully guarded metal ones. The rising cost of these however, necessitated trial with alternative holders and plastic bins with a hole in the base are now being used. The use of polythene sacks as liners in existing galvanised metal bins also has proved satisfactory.

